STATEMENT-III

The ex-factory price of levy sugar is determined on the basis of the Statutory Minimum Price payable for sugarcane and conversion cost, etc. The Country has been divided into twenty zones based on agro-climatic conditions and each zone has a different ex-factory levy sugar price (notified annually under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955)

The range of ex-factory prices (wagon delivery) yearwise are as follows :

S.No.	Sugar year* 1st Oct.- 30th Sept.	Ex factory price (Rs. per Quintal)
1.	1993-94	651.55-902.13
2.	1994-95	748.25-943.82
3.	1995-96	825.81-1041.45

Development of Buddhist Pilgrimage Places

2444. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Buddhist pilgrimage places in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal for development of Kushinagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for the development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The financial assitance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen.

The places identified in Uttar Pradesh are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piorahwa and Sravasti. The major components of the project are strengthening of National and State Highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 12.25 lakhs to make a Restaurant-cum-waiting hall in Kushinagar during 1994-95. Besides, U.P. Airways has indicated Kushinagar as one of the centres for connecting the Buddhist circuit.

Non-Basmati Rice

2445. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-basmati rice of lower quality used to be sold at lower price in the international market due to low prices in the country;

(b) if not, whether the prices of such rice were increased in the country whereas the competitive rice exporting countries have reduced the price of their rice in international market during the past years;

(c) if so, whether the target set for export of rice during 1995-96 has been achieved;

(d) if so, the total quantity of rice exported; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

(b) As per the EXIM policy, non-basmati rice can be exported freely without any quantitative ceilings and minimum export price restrictions. So far the sale of fine and superfine rice by FCI for export is concerned, it was revised from time to time on the basis of the recommendations of the High Level Committee. The export sale price was last revised with effect from 1.7.96 as under :-

Fine/Superfine Rice		
Punjab	-	Rs.7350 per tonne.
Haryana	-	Rs7300 per tonne
Western U.P.	-	Rs7200 per tonne
Madhya Pradesh	-	Rs.7450 per tonne.

(c) to (e). By exporting about 55 lakh tonnes of rice during 1995-96, India became the second largest exporter in the world. Export of rice from the country during 1994-95 was only 8.9 lakh MTs.

Haj Flights

2446. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state : (a) whether the Government propose to provide extra flights for Haj-Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the number of flights being arranged this year;

(c) whether concession is also provided in such flights for Haj-Piligrimage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?